

REMARKS

Claims 1-44 are now pending in the present application. Claims 8-35 are allowed, Claims 1-5, 7, and 36-44 stand rejected, and Claim 6 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Claims 1-5, 7, and 36-44 have been cancelled, without prejudice, and Claim 6 has been rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-5, 7, and 36-44 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Yoshida et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,678,290). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1-5, 7, and 36-44 have been cancelled in order to place the application in condition for allowance, and thus the rejection of these claims is now moot. Applicants further state for the record that these claim rejections are respectfully traversed and the cancellation of these claims is not for reasons of patentability.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Claims 8-35 are allowed.

The Examiner states that Claim 6 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Applicants have amended Claim 6 to include the limitations of the base Claim 1 and any intervening claims. Therefore, Claim 6 should now be in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1216.

Respectfully submitted,

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